6. Use of better type of terminations.

7. Use of insulated dropwires and standard accessories.

8. Replacement of old fault prone underground cables.

9. Ensuring rigid adherence to cable construction practices.

10. Use of better telephone instruments.

(2) *Telephone Exchanges & Media*:

1. Phasing out of old and outmoded exchanges in the network.

2. Introduction of large number of digital electronic exchanges.

3. Introduction of PCM system, Optical Fibre System and Digital Microwave Systems as media.

4. Introduction of electronic Trunk Automatic Exchanges to handle STD/ISD calls.

5. Streamlining the working of mannual Trunk Exchange and ultimately replacing it with a computer controlled electronic exchange.

(3) *Computerisation of services.*

Pending Schemes of Andhra Pradesh

1470. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes pending for clearance with Government from Andhra Pradesh regarding roads, bridges, conversion to National Highways, driver training institutes, etc.;

(b) what are the schemes where information is awaited from Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the schemes likely to be cleared by Government in 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) References about various road and bridge schemes from Andhra Pradesh pending with the Government are mentioned below alongwith their position:—

1. (i) 14 schemes for conversion of State Roads into National Highways and 15 schemes to be taken up under the Economic and Inter State Importance Programme. These proposals can be considered only after the finalisation of the 8th Plan.

1 (i) 14 schemes for conversion of financed against the augmented Central Road Fund. These would be proposed for approval after actual augmentation of the Central Road Fund, which has not yet taken place.

(iii) 15 estimates for works on National Highways. These would be taken up after Demand for Grants have been passed by the Parliament.

2. In addition to above, a Project Report for the development of Buchingham Canal and Commamur Canal between Madras and Vijavawada at an estimated cost of Rs. 37.18 crores has been submitted in February, 1991, for consideration as Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which 50 per cent of the sanctioned cost is provided as Central loan assistance. Certain clarifications|comments have been asked from State Governments of Andhra Pradesh|Tamil Nadu in this regard.

3. Actual clearance of schemes during 1991-92 would depend on *inter-se* priority of the schemes, availability of funds, etc.

Central Road Fund

1471. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Surface Transport operates a Central Road Fund wherein an amount at a rate of five percent of Sale of fuel both petrol and diesel is credited to the fund for release to State Governments to be utilised for road development per the principles and guidelines laid down by the Central Government; and